

proceeded to tear it into bits which were swallowed. This lasted for another three or four minutes. Then the Drongo wiped his beak on the napkin provided by nature, said grace and departed.

HORSLEYKONDA,
15th May, 1923.

C. E. C. FISCHER.

No. XIII.—THE COMMON FLAMINGO (*PHŒNICOPTERUS*
ANTIQUORUM) IN THE PUNJAB SALT RANGE.

In the Ibis for 1916 p. 115 I wrote that Captain Whitehead informs me that Flamingoes are common throughout the winter in the Salt Range Lake of Kallar Kahar. Although I did not visit the lake myself I had an opportunity of examining a skin obtained there and found it to belong to this species. I have now received through the kindness of a correspondent a fine adult male of this species shot at Kallar Kahar on 27th April 1923, and the heads and wings of a pair of immature birds shot at Uchali in the neighbouring district of Shahpur on 20th May 1923. The soft parts in these specimens have been carefully recorded as follows:—

Adult Male .. Iris light-yellow; eyelids french-grey; bill flesh colour, tip black, gape flesh colour; roof and edge of mouth dark-grey, legs bright coral-pink; nails black.

Mature Male .. Iris dark-brown; eyepatch dark-grey; bill light-greenish horn, tip black, lower half with a bluish tinge; legs grey flesh-tinge behind.

Immature female .. Similar but legs pinkish-grey.

Mr. H. W. Waite, Indian Police, who has an intimate acquaintance with the Kallar Kahar lake, informs me that he has seen Flamingoes on it in every month of the year. Their number vary but there are always more in the winter than in the summer.

It would be of interest if any member of the Society could furnish details of the Flamingo at the Uchali Lake or any other of the Salt Range Lakes.

DHARMSALA, PUNJAB,
7th July 1923.

HUGH WHISTLER, F.Z.S.
Indian Police.

No. XIII.—BIRDS ATTACKING A SNAKE.

On August 31st, whilst walking round a Tea Estate, I was attracted by the chattering and excited notes of several Passerine birds coming from the neighbourhood of a biggish tree, on the bank of a stream. I at once suspected a snake, and having arrived close to the tree, where some possibly 50 small birds were all wildly chattering and flying about, fairly high up, from branch to branch, I remained perfectly still. Having discovered where the birds were concentrating, I eventually made out the snake, about 2½ feet long, hanging along and stretched over two or three small branches. From what I could see of it, it was of the genus *Dipsadomorphus*, probably *Dipsadomorphus ceylonensis*, Gunther's Catsnake. I counted 7 species of birds in the attack as follows:—

Small White-throated Babbler	..	<i>Dumetia a. albicularis</i> .
Purple Sun-bird	..	<i>Cryptostomus zeylonicus</i> .
Madras Red-vented Bulbul	..	<i>Molpastes h. hæmorrhous</i> .
The White Browed Bulbul	..	<i>Pycnonotus luteolus</i> .
Indian White Eye	..	<i>Zosterops p. palpebrosa</i> .
Indian Grey Tit	..	<i>Parus major mahrattarum</i> .
The Common Indian Green Barbet	..	<i>Thereiceryx z. zeylonicus</i> .

The interesting part of the attack seemed to me to be that all the birds made direct assault on the head of the cat-snake, but none ever seemed to attack its long tail, which, hanging over the branch, appeared to be completely undefended, and open to a considerable amount of harrassing. The most persistent and venturous of the birds were the little Babblers, 4 in number, who were extraordinarily quick in their thrusts, and their wings also appeared to be used in the attack, just as a swan would use its wings. The little Sun-birds poised themselves in mid-air, directly in front of the snake's face, and every now and then darted in, though they rarely brought the attack right home. The White-Eyes were very numerous and very noisy, but perhaps The Madras Bulbuls seemed the noisiest of the lot, though beyond noise, they did not lend much actual support to the fight. The White-browed Bulbuls, a pair of them, contented themselves with out-bursts of chattering only, and flying up close to watch, and then back again to a safe distance. The Common Indian Barbet, possibly because he did not belong to the same order of the other birds, sat apart, and watched proceedings quietly. When the Cat-snake started to move, the noise grew in intensity, and it was rather interesting how the snake kept its balance slithering along the small branches, with such a babel of voices, and so many small assailants. This went on for the best part of three-quarters of an hour, till the Cat-snake eventually found itself right out at the end of a branch overhanging the stream, and it made me wonder, as it poised at the end of the leafy branch, if it was going to dive off into the water below, but not at all, it drew its tail gradually after it, and made itself apparently into a kind of big figure of 8, with an extra curve in it, and so remained, and thus I left it, with the noise of the attack still continuing. Having got into this position, the snake did not seem further to be particularly interested in the proceedings.

BALANGODA, CEYLON,
18th September 1923.

GEORGE BROWN.

No. XV.—WOODCOCK IN THE NILGIRIS.

I see in the Journal No. 2, Vol. XXIX, Misc. Note No. XIX "Notes on Woodcock in the Nilgiris," Mr. Chas Inglis quotes letters, etc., about arrival of Woodcock.

I think it will be of interest to readers to know that I put up a woodcock on the Krurmand Mukerti Peak track, Nilgiris, on 28th April this year, which must be an exceptionally late date for this species to be found there. I asked my Shikari if he had seen woodcock at that time of the year and he said never before.

W. M. LOGAN HOME,
MAJOR.

No. XVI.—THE CORVIDÆ OF THE PUNJAB.

Reference Mr. Hugh Whistler's article on the Corvidæ of the Punjab in the current number of the Magazine, on page 161 the author states that he failed to find the jungle crow in the Rawalpindi plain. I saw one in Topi Park, Rawalpindi on the 3rd March this year. There was no chance of mistaken identification as the bird was very tame and hopped about the ride close to my horse.

KULLANA, MURREE HILLS,
18th June 1923.

RONALD T. FOSTER,
MAJOR.